



Volume XIX, Number 6

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting

20 March 2025

1. Call to Order (2:00 PM) D. Westenberg
2. Roll Call J. Schlegel
 - a. In attendance were A. Belfi (proxy), J. Burken, S. Corns, K. Dolan, M. Gosnell, S. Hercula (online), M. Hilgers (proxy), W. Hu, A. Hurson, B. Kania-Goche, K. Krishnamurthy (proxy), A. Krolikowski (proxy), B. Lea, K. Liu, J. Mauer, W. Meeks, E. Park (proxy), J. Porcel (proxy), M. Ringhausen (online), P. Runnion, C. Sabharwal (online), W. Schonberg (online), S. Sedigh Sarvestani, P. Shamsi, L. Sotiriou-Leventis, S. Usman (proxy), H. Wen, D. Westenberg, J. Winiarz (online), A. Yamilov, M. Zawodniok.
 - b. Absent were L. Alagha, V. Allada, S. Baur, W. Fahrenholtz, D. Finke, D. Fischer, K. Homan, U. Koylu, J. Wang, B. Weir, D. Williamson.
3. Consent Agenda D. Westenberg
 - a. Approved by unanimous consent
4. President's Report D. Westenberg
 - a. Thank you to faculty, staff, and students for helping the community over the last week.
 - b. IFC
 - i. Faculty Analytics: Committee to look into things like MyVITA, P. Runnion will be our representative.
 - ii. Dear Colleague Letter: From Department of Education, some concerns about the definition of 'covert discrimination.' The restriction on visas from certain countries and how that may affect graduate students was discussed.
 - iii. Promotion & Tenure: Some concern about vague language regarding sustained research in the CRRs. The language is intentionally vague, it is up to the colleges and departments to determine how sustained research is best evaluated in their field(s).
 - iv. Funding Challenges: There is a lot of uncertainty, the state budget is still not set and decisions at the federal level may have significant effects.
 - v. Title II: New tool to prepare your courses for digital accessibility is coming in mid-April, called Blackboard Ally. Even if the Title II requirements change, making materials accessible is the right thing to do for our students.
 - vi. AI: UM System web page for AI policy will mirror Mizzou's.
 - vii. Software Approvals: Still streamlining processes, developing software to track approvals across all 4 campuses so that we can use software that was already approved by another campus.
 - viii. State budget: Still a lot of uncertainty, but updates will be provided as they become available.
 - ix. Legislation: Some potential legislation that may affect S&T is being watched, namely one related to transfers and one allowing institutions outside UM System to offer professional degrees.



- c. Curator's meeting on campus: BioPlex groundbreaking on 16 April. The meeting will take place on 17 April.
- d. Campus Matters
 - i. Provost search: Deadline for applications is Monday.
 - ii. F&O: General listening sessions upcoming, both virtual and in-person. Find schedule and topics on Percipio <umsystem.percipio.com>.
 - iii. Administrative Review: Surveys will close tomorrow.
 - iv. Leadership meetings <minermomentum.mst.edu>: Topics include updating transfer partnerships with community colleges, Kummer College initiatives, connecting learning and research using AI, planning for budget reduction scenarios and trying to keep faculty/staff raises intact, planning board meeting scenarios for when Trustees and Curators are here on campus. VC for Engagement and Outreach is not a new position, but Marketing and Communication is being retitled. No new administrative positions are being created but the current VCMC is being invited to apply for the new position.
 - v. Shared Governance Summit: Planning to increase staff support for Faculty Senate committees, with emphasis on the strategic focus areas. Policy memoranda open forums are coming up, faculty committees should be more involved with developing these changes to policy. Developing stronger partnership with the Faculty Affairs office. Some concerns about the Faculty Senate budget, trying to include Faculty Senate in deciding that.
- 5. Campus Reports
 - a. Staff Council K. Walkup
 - i. Staff appreciation week: Staff excellence award nominations from 17 March to 11 April, please consider nominating staff. Staff Appreciation Week will be 19-22 May, with activities throughout the week. Opening ceremony the morning of 21 May.
 - b. Student Council M. De La Hunt
 - i. Referendum results: Aiden Pickett elected new President; term begins 29 April. Student activity fee increase passed, as did constitutional amendment.
 - ii. Current projects: Mental health initiatives ongoing, including well-being training for Student Council and Greek Life on 5 April. Academic information availability is still in progress, should be able to present something on it next month, policy committee is still watching the policy related to campus closures. St. Pat's board donated \$10,000 to the Red Cross this week.
 - c. Council of Graduate Students
 - i. No Report
- 6. Reports of Standing Committees
 - a. Budgetary Affairs B. Lea
 - i. F&O Listening sessions: FY 25 financial update and look ahead to FY 26, details on Percipio.
 - ii. Salary trends: Data on number of positions and budget allocation to various personnel groups was presented. The number of NTT and postdocs/visiting researchers is increasing, but number of T/TT faculty is decreasing. Concern over whether this aligns



- with the University's strategic goals. Provide feedback at the meetings on 2-3 April. Data on how S&T compares to similar universities nationwide and regionally will be presented at the next Faculty Senate meeting. There were questions regarding whether we should remove grant-funded positions from the analysis.
- iii. Financial positions: Decreasing debt ratio, increasing assets and decreasing liabilities.
 - b. Campus Curricula P. DeWitt
 - i. The Campus Curricula Committee moves that the Faculty Senate approves the General Education Program. Motion passes 23-0-0.
 - ii. Any group of 10 or more faculty can propose a change to the General Education program.
 - c. Facilities Planning M. Zawodniok
 - i. Campus presentations on completed construction work are available.
 - ii. This committee is looking at new construction/buildings, and the use of current space is not within this committee's purview. Planning for campus space allocation, etc. is generally done at the Dean level along with the space manager John Wright, working with department chairs. For new buildings, there is a programming committee that determines who is responsible for space in that building.
 - d. Effective Teaching J. Schramm
 - i. CET moves that the unweighted average of the first 5 and bottom 9 questions on the student evaluation of teaching be reported separately, along with the rest of the SET information.
 - ii. Motion to table until April Faculty Senate meeting. Motion passes 23-0-0.
 - e. Information Technology and Computing D. Stutts
 - i. IT Survey: Closes 21 March, report will be presented.
 - ii. Access Changes: Changes to the LAPS system for administrator access to campus computers are being implemented. Will make the process less secure, but more convenient. This system will be replaced in the future. This is a result of discussion with and recommendation from ITCC and did not require approval from UM System. Delegate access for research accounts still exists, submit a ticket to identify machine and users who need access, turnaround time is usually a few days. You must be listed as the owner of the device.
 - f. Personnel D. Westenberg
 - i. Faculty/Staff Climate Survey: the survey was approved for April; questions will be the same as last year.
 - ii. Teaching Improvement Plans: revision will be presented at the April faculty senate meeting
 - g. Tenure Policy M. Nath
 - i. Motion 1: The committee moves to include a timeline in the tenure procedure guidelines and the by-laws, by which to make the request for tenure extension. Motion passes 23-0-0.



Faculty Senate

Dave Westenberg, President
Paul Runnion, President-Elect
Joshua Schlegel, Secretary
Michael Gosnell, Parliamentarian

- ii. Motion 2: The committee moves to adopt the following timeline to request tenure extension: “Requests for tenure extension must be made by the beginning of the calendar year (January) during which mandatory tenure application is due.” Motion passes 22-1-0.
- h. Rules, Procedures, & Agenda K. Dolan
- i. Graduate faculty: Looking for 2 nominations from the Faculty Senate for the April elections to a Graduate Faculty committee needed for the graduate curriculum update process required by the bylaws. S. Corns nominated himself for one of the positions.
- 7. Unfinished Business D. Westenberg
 - a. None
- 8. New Business D. Westenberg
 - a. None
- 9. Q&A With Provost C. Potts
 - a. VC for Outreach & Engagement: Intent is to coordinate all of our outward-facing relationships (except for Advancement and Grants/Contracts). Current Marketing & Communications is a very narrow definition of that. The goal is to improve nationwide recognition of S&T. Will be S&T's ambassador. Sometimes just updating a position title is appropriate, sometimes a new search is needed if a role has significant changes. For questions about specific roles, please reach out to the Provost. This will require significant restructuring, the roles/functions that this role will oversee are identified, but the specifics of the organization (i.e. org chart) are a work in progress. The person who is hired will likely have some input into that process as well. This change came from a suggestion from faculty to centralize our communication with government, other universities around the world, etc. Please provide any insights you may have to the search committee or the Chancellor's office. Only 2 of the 18 search committee members are from CEC, size and distribution seem unbalanced. Because this will be important for how the University is viewed, the thought was to err by including too many on the committee rather than too few to be inclusive of a variety of viewpoints.
- 10. Announcements D. Westenberg
 - a. Happy New Year - first day of Spring and first day of the Persian new year.
 - b. Lecture by Kate Sheppard on work with Egyptologists at 6pm on the second floor of the Library
- 11. Adjourn (3:42 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Schlegel
Secretary | Faculty Senate



Faculty Senate

Dave Westenberg, President
Paul Runnion, President-Elect
Joshua Schlegel, Secretary
Michael Gosnell, Parliamentarian

Faculty Senate Meeting Consent Agenda

Location	Computer Science 221 – in-person attendance required for voting Zoom – for non-voting attendees https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/92775992200?pwd=MQ4y1kWiAGtGp5qHXPRyPThlVJltz4.1 Passcode: 0000
Date	20 March 2025
Time	2:00 PM

1. Curriculum Committee Report
2. Minutes from 27 February 2025

P. DeWitt
J. Schlegel